

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently Amended) A device comprising a catheter, a gripper, and a leaflet fastener applicator, wherein the fastener applicator and the gripper extend from separate shafts that extend through the catheter ~~said catheter having a proximal end, a distal end and suitable dimensions for insertion into a heart, said leaflet fastener applicator passing through said catheter such that an actuating element projects from said proximal end of said catheter while a fastening element projects from said distal end of said catheter.~~

22-27. Canceled.

28. (Withdrawn) A heart valve gripper/fastener applicator comprising a gripper and a fastener applicator wherein said gripper and said fastener applicator extend from a single shaft.

29-35. Canceled.

36. (New) The device of claim 21 wherein said catheter has a proximal end, a distal end and suitable dimensions for insertion into a heart, the leaflet fastener applicator passing through the catheter such that an actuating element projects from the proximal end of the catheter while a fastener projects from the distal end of the catheter.

37. (New) The device of claim 21 wherein the gripper and the fastener applicator extend simultaneously through the catheter.

38. (New) The device of claim 21 further comprising a second catheter, wherein the gripper extends through a first catheter and the fastener applicator extends through the second catheter.

39. (New) The device of claim 21 wherein the gripper comprises a grasper and a plunger, wherein the plunger can be moved along one of the separate shafts to push leaflets toward the plunger.

40. (New) The device of claim 39 wherein the plunger comprises arms to push the leaflets towards the grasper.

41. (New) The device of claim 39 wherein the plunger comprises a balloon plunger which is inflated to guide the leaflets to the grasper.

42. (New) The device of claim 21 wherein the gripper comprises two opposing jaws.

43. (New) The device of claim 21 wherein the fastener applicator comprises two opposing jaws, one of the jaws having a site for holding a tack, and the second of the jaws having a site for holding a cap.

44. (New) The device of claim 43 wherein the jaw having a site for holding the tack further comprises a slot, wherein the tack can be shifted to a position opposite the site for holding the cap.

45. (New) The device of claim 21 wherein the fastener applicator comprises a ring.

46. (New) The device of claim 45 wherein the ring is a crimp ring.

47. (New) The device of claim 45 wherein the ring is a spring loaded ring.

48. (New) The device of claim 45 wherein the ring comprises two spring loaded rings.

49. (New) The device of claim 21 wherein the fastener applicator comprises a curved needle in a slot at the tip of one of the separate shafts.

50. (New) The device of claim 49 wherein the curved needle has suture attached to the needle such that pulling the suture rotates the needle in the slot.